

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

DATE OF INFORMATION 1953

DATE DIST. 26 Jun 1953

NO. OF PAGES 3

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE Hungarian

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Szabad Nep.

URGE GREATER SPEED, EFFICIENCY IN SPRING FIELD WORK IN HUNGARY

During the month of April, the Hungarian government conducted a vigorous agricultural campaign aimed primarily at inducing independent producers to complete their spring field work early and efficiently. This report presents information on the campaign, as reported in Szabad Nep.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

On 4 April 1953, Szabad Nep printed a report issued by the Ministry of Agriculture. The report, which outlined the current situation in regard to spring field work, is summarized as follows:

The sowing of spring wheat was completed throughout the country on 20 March. To compensate for the deficiency in the winter cereal crops, eight times as much spring wheat has been planted as in former years. Experimental farms, training farms and producers cooperatives completed the sowing of barley and oats on 31 March. Plowing and fertilizing also were completed on a nationwide scale. Nearly twice as much land was fertilized this year as in 1952. The planting of sugar beets has reached 93.6 percent of plan requirements.

Agricultural machine stations have improved their performance and materially assisted the cooperatives. The machine stations in Komárom, Nógrád, Fejér, and Békés megyék finished their spring plans on 4 April.

Despite these excellent results, many independent producers are lagging in the sowing of barley and oats, and the country as a whole is behind schedule in planting sunflower seed. There are serious delays also in the planting of fodder, alfalfa, and clover.

Although the target date for the completion of spring plowing was 31 March, independent producers in many parts of the country are still lagging in plowing, and reserve land /farm land recently sold to the state/ has not been cultivated

- 1 -

CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL

DISTRIBUTION

STATE		NAVY	NSRB	DISTRIBUTION			
ARMY	AIR	FBI					

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

everywhere. The quality of the field work is often poor; machine stations should do more and better work. All members of the agricultural sector will have to make a greater effort if the spring plan is to be fulfilled satisfactorily.(1)

On 7 April 1953, 4 days after the Ministry of Agriculture's report, Szabad Nep carried an article on page 1 urging the completion of the planting of barley and oats by 10 April.(2) This was followed on 10 April by an article on the front page of the same paper stating that the Ministry of Agriculture had ordered commissions to make an inspection of the field work throughout the country between 10 and 20 April. The article stated that although last year's poor crops depleted the store of seed potatoes in some places, the time had arrived for planting potatoes, and seed could and must be obtained. The article recommended that seed potatoes be obtained by purchase or barter, or by slicing in half potatoes weighing a minimum of 6 decagrams so that both halves could be used for seed. It was even suggested that the sprouts of food potatoes be removed and planted.(3)

On 11 April, Szabad Nep reminded producers of the special benefits provided by the 1953 decree on produce delivery for those who meet their sunflower delivery obligations in kind. According to the paper, these benefits consist of the right to purchase 2 liters of table oil, one kilogram of soap, and 5 kilograms of sunflower-seed meal for each quintal of sunflower seed which is surrendered in fulfillment of delivery quotas. The purchase price is to be 11 forints for a liter of table oil, 14 forints for a kilogram of soap, and 65 forints for a quintal of meal. Producers delivering sunflower seed in excess of their quotas will receive, free of charge, 17 liters of table oil and 20 kilograms of meal for each excess quintal; soap may be substituted for table oil.(4)

The 10 April target date for barley was not met; on 14 April Szabad Nep again complained about the delay in planting barley, adding that it was time also for potatoes to be in the ground (5), and on 18 April the same paper published the Ministry of Agriculture's directive to the effect that spring planting must be accelerated. The directive criticized specifically the delay in planting barley, sunflower seed, and potatoes.(6)

Although no further mention is made of the committees which were to survey spring field work between 10 and 20 April, the 22, 23, and 24 April issues of Szabad Nep urged greater speed in potato planting. The 22 April issue scored local councils which blamed the delay on a shortage of seed potatoes. Szabad Nep felt that this shortage was a fiction, since producers could double their supply of seed simply by slicing the potatoes in half.(7)

After a month of exhortation and criticism, the Ministry of Agriculture summarized the current situation in another report which was published by Szabad Nep on 28 April. The report is given in brief below:

Spring planting is nearing completion throughout the country. Many producers' cooperatives and communities report that they have fulfilled their spring plans. Considered as a whole, however, the results are not entirely satisfactory.

Only six megyek [out of 19] have finished planting sunflower seed while four megyek have planted less than 90 percent of the required amount. On 25 April only one megye had finished planting potatoes, while some of the other megyek had planted less than 75 percent of the amount specified.

Although the planting of corn is proceeding more rapidly now, six megyek and many producers cooperatives are still behind schedule. The report added that the machine tractor stations fulfilled their spring work plans by 125.6 percent.(8)

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

SOURCES

1. Budapest, Szabad Nep, 4 Apr 53
2. Ibid., 7 Apr 53
3. Ibid., 10 Apr 53
4. Ibid., 11 Apr 53
5. Ibid., 14 Apr 53
6. Ibid., 18 Apr 53
7. Ibid., 22, 23, 24 Apr 53
8. Ibid., 28 Apr 53

- E N D -

- 3 -

CONFIDENTIAL